

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract.

An apparatus is disclosed for surface sterilization of foods using[[,]] a “germicidal” such as light waves radiation (e.g., ultraviolet), and ~~in some cases~~ possibly in combination with (or replaced by) sound waves and ozone. The ~~surface sterilizer~~ apparatus ~~may include a plurality of~~ germicidal (e.g., ultraviolet) emitters for ~~surface~~ sterilization of foods ~~that are, e.g., rotated in a drum or rotated~~ via a screw auger. ~~Assemblies~~ Emitter assemblies of emitters for the germicidal may be constructed ~~to be~~ for watertightness (i.e., to withstand [[a]] high pressure, heated water spray), and movable relative to the drum or screw conveyor for ~~easy~~ cleaning and maintenance. ~~The apparatus may also~~ Embodiments include a controller (e.g., programmable logic controller) for ~~controlling the sterilization process so that the~~ preventing harm to nearby ~~apparatus does not endanger personnel nearby, and so that~~ for proper food sterilization the food is properly sterilized. The controller ~~may vary~~ varies the an amount of germicidal ~~used~~, the rate ~~that~~ food traverses the apparatus, the apparatus inclination of the ~~apparatus~~, and terminates sterilization ~~processing~~ when an unsafe condition is detected. ~~The apparatus~~ Embodiments may be used in-line with other food processing equipment for ~~the real-time food sterilization of food.~~, and ~~The controller may also~~ communicate with upstream food processing components ~~upstream of the apparatus for controlling the~~ food flow of food to the surface sterilizer apparatus.